

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (63-6266)

DATE: 4/26/61

FROM : SAC, LAS VEGAS

b3  
b7E

SUBJECT: "CHANGED"  
DONALD LEONARD ARMSTRONG, aka  
Don L. Armstrong  
Miscellaneous-Information Concerning  
(Espionage)

Re Buairtel's 3/17 - 31/61.

Title changed to reflect subject's full name as obtained from him.

On 4/7/61, ARMSTRONG was interviewed at the Reno Resident Agency by SAS LORING J. MC GEE and CARROL T. NEVIN. ARMSTRONG was accompanied by an individual who identified himself as D. J. MAC DONALD, 927 Valley Road, Reno, Nevada. ARMSTRONG gave as his address PO Box 1891, Reno, Nevada.

He admitted writing the letter dated 2/24/61 addressed to ROBERT F. KENNEDY, Attorney-General. He was asked to substantiate his allegations against the Director and SA FORD E. HOLMES, and he declined to do so, stating that he was not going to reveal his information or the sources of his information unless the matter were brought to court. He said that he can substantiate the allegations, would like to have the matter brought out in court, and would like to have the matter brought out in the open. He said that the FBI is dishonest and dishonorable and has committed Treason in the eyes of the people; that the FBI has violated constitutional rights. Again, however, he refused to be specific.

He claimed to have "worked with" the FBI for 20 years, but refused to enlarge on that statement except to say he was not an employee and was not an informant.

He said he is not going to stop his attacks and has a well organized program in this respect.

C

LJM/nlw  
(4)

- 2 - Bureau (63-6266) (Enc. 2) (AM)
- 2 - Las Vegas
- 1 - 100-32

ENCLOSURE

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Evans	
Mr. Malone	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Ingram	
Miss Gandy	

b3  
b7E

UNREC COPY AND COPY OF ENCL FILED IN

APR 28 1961

b3  
b7E

0-17 sent to Las Vegas  
5-8-61 date paragraph 3  
RFL:mlh

Brangier to Belmont memo  
5-5-61 REL:mlh  
ed to AG 5-8-61 REL:mlh

SAC, SALT LAKE CITY

2/14/61

b3  
b7E

SA FORD E. HOLMES

"CHANGED"

DONALD LEONARD ARMSTRONG  
aka, D. Armstrong  
FOUNDATION OR INDIAN  
RESTORATION AND ENLIGHTENMENT  
IS - R

Title changed to reflect full name of subject.

On 1/11/61, BURTON A. LADD, Superintendent, Nevada Indian Agency, Stewart, Nevada, advised that ARMSTRONG was in to see him on one occasion and said the intention of his group was to help the Indian children. He said he was a Chairman of four different groups to help the Indians but refused to tell what the groups were. LADD said he has no information that ARMSTRONG is or is not a Communist or that the organization is Communist controlled. He said it was his opinion ARMSTRONG might be "just a nut."

On 1/12/61, <sup>NEV</sup> ROBERT and <sup>NEV</sup> ZELDA <sup>CALIF</sup> SHULLEY, 1301 University Terrace, were interviewed at their request and they said they desired to furnish some information concerning one DON ARMSTRONG. ARMSTRONG, whom they met several years ago, had a business known as Tahoe Helicopter Service. At that time he was studying metaphysics, has also reportedly been a hypnotist and used to be able to quote the Bible beautifully. Several days prior to the interview he contacted them and his attitude was entirely different. He wants to form an organization in Nevada and demand that the Federal Government release all the land to the State so that Nevada could become a sovereign state. He showed them literature written by Brigadier General U. S. Army Retired HERBERT C. <sup>NEV</sup> HOLDRIDGE, title "Reveille" and he says this literature embraces his ideas. He claims to be HOLDRIDGE'S righthand man in Nevada. He was accompanied by another man known as RAY MEIER, who was formerly a school teacher. ARMSTRONG did not give them a straight answer to several question they asked.

ZELDA SHULLEY said she attended a spacecraft convention in northern California in August of 1960 at Berkeley, California. One of the speakers was an ALLEN MOONAN, who spoke on "This is Year One of the New Age." She did not hear

FEH/chl/nlw  
2 - Salt Lake City  
(1 - 9-491)

62-106949-6  
63-6266-6  
ENCLOSURE

b3  
b7D  
b7E

[redacted]

Following this, [redacted] said she made some inquiries about ARMSTRONG and learned he has spent some time in Pasadena, California, in close association with General HOLDRIDGE (ph) whom she said is a retired army officer who has been in the news a lot and whom she considers to be a full fledge Communist. According to her information, ARMSTRONG has been working with HOLDRIDGE in a campaign to incite the American Indians, and ARMSTRONG has been commuting between Reno, Arizona, and Los Angeles in this endeavor. HOLDRIDGE is, according to [redacted] credited with a recent statement that former president EISENHOWER should be "strung up" for his treatment of the American Indians.

[redacted] advised that ARMSTRONG drives a white Volvo, has no visible means of support, and has a weak personality.

b7D

Another call [redacted] made resulted in the information that ARMSTRONG had attended a group in Reno known as the "Understanding Group." [redacted] said she had attended a few meetings of this group, and it consists of a bunch of "crackpots." ARMSTRONG is alleged to be a hypnotist, has been associated with "BARON" VON BRENNER, Reno, in this activity; has had to do with fighting Cocks, and has reportedly gone through two fortunes. At one time he opened an office in the Woolworth building in Reno, advertised for a secretary, and interviewed 200 applicants. He at one time had a helicopter service at Lake Tahoe, and went "broke" in that venture.

b7D

[redacted] said that from observing him on television, plus the inquiries she had made, she considers him to be a psychopathic case. She said that for example, when the above mentioned incident with DARRAH occurred, and DARRAH refused to have further to do with ARMSTRONG, ARMSTRONG went into a "seance," said he could see bloodshed, and could see District Attorney WILLIAM RAGGIO, Reno, being killed.

b7D

With reference to MACDONALD, [redacted] said that he is a money grabber, an opportunist, and may be a cleverly disguised Communist, although of the latter allegation, she was unable to furnish specific information. She advised that MACDONALD has obtained untold sums from RAYMOND I. SMITH in connection with the All American Society; that he started a newspaper called "The Vigilant Reporter" in Reno, with

b7D

[REDACTED]

He said he has developed a lot of information indicating homosexuality in Nevada State Government circles, and said this would be of interest to the FBI. He was informed this was not within FBI jurisdiction.

At this point ARMSTRONG asked if he was to take this statement that he was being threatened. He was informed that the word being used was "admonished" and he could interpret it any way he desired.

For the Bureau's information, there is set out below information that has come to the attention of this office recently concerning ARMSTRONG and MACDONALD.

On March 21, 1961, ELMER BRISCOE, Chief of Police, Reno, Nevada, advised SA ALLEN R. BOOTH that he had been informed by Rev. CLYDE H. MATHEWS, Colony Baptist Church, Reno-Sparks Indian Colony, that DON ARMSTRONG had been around stirring up the Indians and trying to get them to follow him. MATHEWS said that he had also been informed by NICK JACKSON, owner of Newman's Silver Shop, Reno, that ARMSTRONG claims to be associated with a General HOLDRIDGE and to be the head of the Muslims in the United States and to have control over a million Negroes.

In casual conversation on 3/28/61, ERIC RICHARDS, Assistant District Attorney, Washoe County, Reno, advised SA CARROL T. NEVIN that ARMSTRONG is a "crack pot"; that at one time he had an auction sales company on South Virginia Street in Reno. At the same time WILLIAM RAGGIO, District Attorney, commented that at one time ARMSTRONG lived with one DONALD MC COUN aka DON MILLER, an associate of JOE CONFORTE (subject of AR case this office, and operator of houses of prostitution). *ANTI-RACIST*

On 3/29/61 [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] was interviewed at her request by SAS FORD E. HOLMES and LORING J. MC GEE. She advised that her information concerned principally DONALD J. MAC DONALD and DON L. ARMSTRONG, and their connection with local efforts in Reno to block activities of the Urban Renewal program.